

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been carefully reviewed in view of the Office Action of December 14, 2007. In the Office Action claims 1, 10 and 17 were rejected under §112 for inclusion of the term “aspirin.” Claims 1, 10, 17 and 22 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Hodge U.S. Patent No. 7,226,968. Claims 2-3, 8-9, 14-16, 20-21 and 23 were objected to for depending on a rejected base claim. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

The term “aspirin” is a generic term for “acetylsalicylic acid.” Claims 1, 10 and 17 have been amended above to delete the term “aspirin” and replace it with “acetylsalicylic acid.” The specification has also been amended above to include the term “acetylsalicylic acid” in conjunction with “aspirin.” It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection under §112 has been obviated.

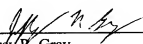
Claims 1, 10, 17 and 22 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Hodge. The Office Action asserts that Hodge teaches a composition containing an anti-microbial agent (azole fungicide), and polymer. The application for the cited Hodge '968 patent was filed on May 20, 2004 and claims priority from a U.S. provisional application filed on May 20, 2003. The present application claims priority from the June 25, 2002 filing date of Korean priority Application No. 10-2002-0035793. A photocopy of a certified copy of the Korean priority application is attached hereto. Also attached is an English translation of the Korean priority application.

The Korean priority application discloses a polymer resin composition including an anti-microbial agent and a polymer resin. The disclosure of the Korean priority application is included in the present application. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Hodge '968 patent should be removed as a reference against the present application, because the Korean priority application filed on June 25, 2002 predates the Hodge reference.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 8-10, 14-17 and 20-23 are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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